

RONNIE CARR



Post Office Box 1113
Tulare, California
Telephone 686-2924
Area Code 209

December 6, 1966

Mr. John J. Ford, Jr.
175 Hendrickson Ave.
Rockville Centre, New York

Dear John:

Our Panel would like three (3) sets of photographs of the three U. S. Assay Office \$20 pieces (two in gold and one in silver) that you mentioned in the hearing at Chicago. We would like to have prints of these furnished for our examination. Also please send three (3) sets of photographs of the Schultz & Co. and Confederate half dollar electro specimens that Paul Franklin made for you.

We would appreciate this material at your earliest convenience but in ample time to study before the next hearing in Los Angeles in February.

Your full cooperation will be appreciated, I remain,

Cordially,

Ronnie Carr, Chairman P.N.G. Panel for the GARLAND-RYAN MATTER

cc: Mr. Leo A. Young, President P.N.G.

The Midas Touch

December 12, 1966

Mr. Ronnie Carr
P. O. Box 1113
Tulare, Calif. 93274

Dear Ronnie:

I have your letter of December 6th, in which you ask for photographs of my three 1853 \$20 USA09 coins, these being the photographs that I had with me in Chicago last summer.

Frankly, I had planned to use these three photographs in my final presentation to your Committee, and may still do so. However, to comply with your request, I am sending a complete set of eighteen enlargements, consisting of three each of the obverse and reverse of my two gold and one silver pieces. I do this with the understanding, that good care will be taken of these prints, and that I can have all or part returned to me upon request sometime next year.

I do not know when I will be able to give you my final report but when I do, I would like to furnish at the commencement of the meeting a copy of the report with photographs to you and the other two members of the panel, so that you can readily follow my presentation as I give it.

I have not had photographed the Shultz & Company over-struck sandwich electro or the 1861 CSA half dollar sandwich electro. These pieces, in my opinion, have nothing to do with the investigation in which we are involved. However, I wish to cooperate with you in every way, and since I do not have any photographs, I am sending you the two pieces herewith, for examination by you and any one you feel should see them. These coins may be described as follows:

1. 1851 Shultz & Co. Half Eagle, over-struck on 1847 Mexico 3 Reales, Durango Mint. Sandwich electro, weight 480.7 grains. Made from the unique original, May 1, 1955 - May 7, 1955, by a New York jeweler upon request of Paul Franklin. This piece can be readily detected by a cursory examination of the edge, the two silver shells being clearly visible.

2. 1861 Half Dollar, simulated "original" of the CSA issue. Sandwich electro, weight 172.5 grains. Made by a New York jeweler, October, 1956, upon request of Paul Franklin. This piece is better made and more carefully finished than the above. The two joints on the edge where the silver shells meet the ground down half dollar have been carefully filed and silver plated repeatedly in an effort to remove the two edge seams. The reverse has been partially tooled in an effort to remove the obvious signs of die rust. This piece can be easily detected by its weight which is about 17 grains lighter than the known originals. In addition, careful examination of the reverse with a glass discloses rust on the cap and on other areas (which was not removed).

A regular electro, from my reference collection of false coins, of the CSA half dollar restrike is also enclosed for comparison.

The photographs are going forward under separate cover. Please return the three enclosed pieces to me when you are through with them.

I have never received a transcript of the testimony and statements made in Chicago, but I am sure that I made it clear at the time that (a) Paul Franklin did not make these pieces himself, and (b) that Paul Franklin at no time attempted to deceive any body but me, and even that deception only involved a few minutes in the first instance and less than half a day in the second. Furthermore, Paul Franklin made every effort at the time to talk about these particular pieces and to show them personally to numerous people, among them Art Kagin, Dick Picker, the Stacks etc.

If you have any other questions concerning any of the above, please do not hesitate to call upon me.

Sincerely,

JJF:dn

John J. Ford, Jr.

cc - Leo A. Young.

LIGHTEST RESTRIKE KNOWN

184-185 GRAINS

ORIGINALS

189-192 GRAINS

RONNIE CARR



Post Office Box 1113
Tulare, California
Telephone 686-2924
Area Code 209

February 27, 1947

Mr. John C. Ford, Sr.
147 Macmillan Avenue
Rockville, Centre, L. I., New York

Dear John:

Many thanks for yours of the 15th.

I appreciate your invitation to visit your home when I am in New York this coming April 1st. With a complete photographic file record of all the WFOAC material assembled through the efforts of Paul Friedman. The Waldorf Astor will not take all of time so it would be quite easy for Lester Berlin and myself to set up a day devoted to familiarizing ourselves with the material you have at hand. I don't know at this moment if Ned Lorgen will be in New York for the "Raisberg-Dehnbart" affair, however, I doubt it very much as he is so busy with ANA matters. If he decides to make the trip it would be splendid. In any event, we can always bring him up-to-date later with what we see.

I will stay at the Waldorf-Astoria and send you my arrival time at a later date.

Looking forward to our next meeting, I remain,

Yours cordially,

Ronnie Carr, Chm. WFOAC label for the Garland-Ryan matter

cc: Mr. Leo A. Young
Mr. Lester Berlin
Mr. Norbert Lorgen

The Midas Touch

Tennessee State Numismatic Society

Paul E. Garland, President 608 Mountain View Avenue Maryville, Tennessee 37801
Telephone 615-983-5570

Sen. John Duncan
House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

30 October 1967

RECEIVED

Dear Mr. Duncan;

I feel that I must write you in regards to the Josiah K. Lilly Collection that is being offered to the government for a tax credit. Since the Congress would in all actuality be purchasing the collection, I should think that a guarantee of authenticity should accompany any such purchase.

It is a known fact that this collection contains many counterfeit pieces. Especially those that came from the so-called Hunsbert associate source. Myself together with another group have been for several years trying to prove this to the American Numismatic Association. This effort was started in 1963, finally in 1966 the actual arbitration started at the A.N.A. Convention in Chicago, it was concluded just this last August in Miami, Fla. Where the A.N.A. Convention was held this year. The decision will be announced this February at the Southern California Numismatic Convention at the Statler Hotel in Los Angeles.

At the present time I am the owner of one of these pieces that I paid \$3,300.00 for. Later I decided these pieces were counterfeit and consulted several other prominent Numismatists of the country, after several tests in different laboratories confirmed our suspicions. This occurred in 1963, it took until 1966 to get the arbitration started and is just now reaching a decision. I sincerely believe that the Arbitration Panel, consisting of Mr. Ronnie Carr, Chairman, a prominent collector of Pioneer gold of Eugene, Calif. Mr. Lester Merkin, A very prominent dealer from New York City, and Mr. Herbert Bergen, 1st. Vice President of the American Numismatic Association, will find these pieces to be Counterfeit. I will even go so far as to say regardless of their findings, these pieces are definitely counterfeit.

One of the appraisers of this estate was a party to this arbitration. Mr. Abe Koseff was a witness at the hearings, and a reluctant one at that, I might add. This whole affair reeks of fraud from the moment that is attached to it. Biased testimony or stupid experts, (Experts are any damn fool, one hundred miles from here) have not even mentioned the possibilities of any counterfeit coins being present. Though both of them knew full well what the results of this arbitration could mean. I am sending copies of this letter to Senators, Baker & Gore. Plus a copy to Mr. Eric P. Newman, President & Founder of the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society, 6450 Cecil Ave. St Louis, Mo. 63178. With an invitation to him to elaborate upon my statements to you. He is much more qualified than I. He was also Chairman of the 1967 Assay Commission.

Very truly yours,

cc-file
Senator Howard R. Baker, Jr.
Senator Albert Gore
Mr. Eric P. Newman

Paul E. Garland

JOHN J. DUNCAN
20 DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

3 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BLDG.
PHONE: 225-5435

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 1, 1967

COMMITTEES:
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HOSPITALS
HOUSING
EDUCATION AND TRAINING
PUBLIC WORKS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
RIVERS AND HARBORS
PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE
ON THE FEDERAL AID
HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Honorable Emanuel Celler
Chairman
Judiciary Committee
2137 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Colleague:

Re: H.R. 12940-H.R. 12949

Attached is a letter from Mr. Paul E. Garland of
Maryville, Tennessee concerning the coin collection owned
by the Estate of Josiah K. Lilly.

This letter is being submitted for consideration
in the deliberation of the above named bills.

Sincerely,

JOHN J. DUNCAN
Member of Congress

JJD/dc

Enclosure

December 6, 1967

Honorable S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. Secretary:

The bill H.R. 12940, for the relief of the Estate of Josiah K. Lilly, and a group of similar bills are presently pending before this Committee.

You will recall that this is the legislation that was the subject of a subcommittee hearing on September 27, 1967, at which we were privileged to have you appear as a witness.

After the hearings had been completed on the bills, the Committee received the enclosed correspondence which raises some questions. I would appreciate having your comments on the enclosed letter from Mr. Paul E. Garland of Maryville, Tennessee, so that the Committee may have information which will enable it to act conclusively on the matter.

Sincerely yours,

Emanuel Celler
Chairman

EC:sm

Encls.



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Washington, D.C. 20560
U.S.A.

January 12, 1968

Honorable Emanuel Celler
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In response to your request for comments on the letter from a Mr. Paul Garland of Maryville, Tennessee, addressed to Representative Duncan concerning the Josiah K. Lilly Collection, careful study has been given its content, much of which refers obscurely to matters of which I have no personal knowledge and which do not appear to be germane to the legislation pending before your Committee. Disregarding these references to problems elsewhere, as well as the personal remarks which might well be actionable in another context, the letter may be summarized as alleging that the Lilly Collection contains "many counterfeit pieces" and recommending a certificate of authenticity.

In my opinion, such a certification has already been made by Mr. Kosoff in his appraisal, report, and supporting testimony. With particular reference to the American items, which seem to be the subject of Mr. Garland's letter, Mr. Kosoff, on page 5 of his report, summarizes his research and conclusions:

"I have studied both of these reports, together with other pertinent books and letters and am satisfied concerning any questions this group of coins and ingots have aroused in my mind."

He makes one specific exception, on page 29 and 33, to a \$5.00 gold

piece purportedly issued in 1849 by the Massachusetts and California Company of San Francisco, which he believes was struck at a later date.

In this connection, it is also worth recalling that, prior to Mr. Kosoff's determinations, most of these coins were acquired from Stack's, New York, who implicitly guaranteed their authenticity at the time of sale to Mr. Lilly.

Finally, our Curator of Numismatics, Dr. V. Clain-Stefanelli, has had the opportunity to study substantial portions of the Lilly Collection. He reports that in his examination of the coins themselves and the extensive documentary material he has found no evidence whatever to support the unsubstantiated allegations made by Mr. Garland.

I hope that the foregoing comments may be helpful to you and to the other members of your Committee in your consideration of H. R. 12940.

Sincerely yours,

S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary

NEWS RELEASE

ROBERT T. ASHMORE (D-SC)

U. S. House of Representatives

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, January 25, 1968

JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE
SCHEDULES ADDITIONAL HEARING
ON LEGISLATION CONCERNING
LILLY COIN COLLECTION

Congressman Robert T. Ashmore (D-SC), Chairman of Subcommittee No. 2 of the House Committee on the Judiciary, announced today that his subcommittee has scheduled a further hearing on bills concerning a proposed transfer to the United States of the coin collection of the late Josiah K. Lilly. A public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 1968 in Room 2226 of the Rayburn House Office Building, beginning at 10:00 A. M. Mr. Ashmore stated that insofar as possible, interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to testify or file written statements at that time.

The same bills were the subject of hearings on September 27, 1967 and November 1, 1967, and this hearing has been called to obtain additional information as to the value and nature of the collection.

VERSION

#1

STATE OF NEW YORK)
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

MENT MADE UPON RE-
TURN FROM "DECISION"
MADE BY RYAN-GAR-
SS.: LAND ARBITRATION
PANEL

DON TAXAY, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

1. I live and maintain my office at 32-42 33rd Street, Astoria, New York, 11106 and my telephone numbers are 274-1431 and 552-1047.

2. I am a numismatic specialist and operate my business under the name of Numismatic Information Service at the aforesaid address.

3. I am familiar with the subject matter of the dispute between Ryan and Garland which is the subject of arbitration, studied all matter available to me regarding it and have come to the conclusion it is genuine.

4. The Arbitration Panel in the Ryan - Garland arbitration was scheduled to render its decision on the arbitration on February 16, 1968 in Los Angeles, California and at the expense of Harvey Stack and John Ford of New York I attended at the convention and arrived at the Statler Hilton on February 14, 1968.

5. At about 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, February 15, 1968, in a room in the said Statler Hilton Hotel, a so called "inquiry" was held by the Panel relative to the subject matter of the arbitration and there were present at it Ronnie Carr, the Chairman, Herbert Dargen and Lester Merkin. Also present were Walter Breen and myself and Mrs. Margo Russell, who is the Executive Editor of Coin World, Chester Krause, publisher of Numismatic News. These

are the two biggest publications in the coin field. Also present was Max Schwartz who was the lawyer for P H G and some other young unidentified and unknown man.

6. A few minutes before the start of the meeting I met Carr with whom, ~~of course~~, I am ^{well} acquainted, in the Hotel lobby and I had a conversation with him in which he and I both agreed it was in everybody's best interest that the Panel and I should disclose all evidence and hold nothing back from each other. Then we went up to the room for the hearing.

7. I had previously prepared a six page report analyzing the pertinent matter with regard to this coin and John Ford had previously sent copies of it to each of the three Panel members.

8. After the discussion at the hearing started one of the Panel members raised the question about the propriety of my statement in the last paragraph of the letter which said one Panel member had confided in me he believed the Ryan - Garland coin and all similar coins were genuine. Lester Harkin is that Panel member and he had in fact previously made such statement to me. Mr. Bergen asked me why I put it in and he wanted me to retract it and I refused because I said it was true and it is true.

9. I refuted point by point a communication the Panel had from Eva Adams, Director of the Mint. Mr. Bergen asked why Mr. Ford had flattered her in the last paragraph of his letter to her and I pointed out this was merely a matter of personal politeness to a public official.

10. Mr. Carr tried to infer because my fare to Los Angeles was paid by Messrs. Ford and Stack I was a biased witness and he said in a somewhat threatening tone "don't deny that they paid your fare because I can prove it" although I had never even indicated such denial. I told him my opinion was based upon and supported by facts not by prejudices.

11. Mrs. Adams had said it would only cost about \$125. to prepare these coins as counterfeits. I pointed out she had not the faintest idea of the processes or the problems and she obviously did not know it would require the making of fifteen dies, four or five ^{col}ors, four or five hubs and presses and that would make such processes wholly uneconomical and no forger would be engaged in an uneconomical forgery. Mr. Carr then said maybe some of the coins were sold at small figures by Franklin in the expectation on a long term arrangement a big profit could be made. I pointed out that argument had no substance whatever and was completely baseless as they assured each coin was made from a prototype which would require each prototype to be destroyed after each forgery was made from it.

12. I then took up the technical questions raised by Eric Neuman and one by one I showed how each of his charges are completely refuted.

13. Mr. Carr said "what would I say if he told me the Foul had tests made which refuted what I said?" I said I would like to see the laboratory report and asked I be shown it of such tests and he said they could not show it now but they would show it later to me. I said I could not be expected to refute anything unless they exhibited it to me.

14. I said we have the coins before us for actual examination and tests and instead of arguing specifically about the provable scientific facts regarding the coins and they got off on a tangent of other arguments they should base their argument on the examination and tests of the coins themselves.

15. After that there was a discussion with Deen and the Panel promised a decision would be announced at 1 P.M. the next day, Friday, February 16, 1968. None came and I waited and waited and finally after 3 P.M. I went out to lunch. I was told while I was out to lunch an announcement came over the loudspeaker in the Bourse Room which said a decision would be announced by the Panel at 3:30 P.M. and invited all to attend. The following information was received by me from Abe Kosoff as I was at lunch during this period.

16. Abe Kosoff said the Panel announced the Carland - Ryan coin "was not a genuine proof coin". This announcement was made in the presence of members of the press and a large number of dealers and Kosoff said to Herkin "are you saying the coin is genuine but not a proof" and Herkin said "yes, that is what I am saying". Kosoff asked Carr the same question and Carr said "no". Kosoff then said to Carr "are you saying that it is neither a genuine proof nor a genuine coin" and Carr did not answer. Kosoff then said to Carr "come on, what do you have to say?" Carr hesitated and hesitated and finally said "yes, I am saying it is not a genuine coin". Bergen was not there because he had left the meeting shortly after it started because he had been told his wife was ill and Kosoff said to Carr "what about Bergen" and Carr said "he agrees with me".

17. There were several discussions among the press and the dealers who were present and some one said if this information is published the market in general will be hurt and the value of all types of coins will be down.

18. Kosoff asked if the Panel was not going to make a decision and indicate facts on which it reached that decision and they said they did not have to give any reasons. Kosoff stated they would have to justify their decision in Court and Kosoff told me a bit later the Panel was going to get together again to re-write their decision. This was while Gurr and Markin with some others were in a bar in the Hotel but I understand Bergen was not with them. Gurr then stated there was a new decision and the new decision said "we find this not to be a proof coin". They had dropped the word "genuine" from the previous decision.

19. I had returned from lunch at about 4 P.M. and saw Kosoff and received the foregoing information from him and was told the Panel had rendered a written decision but I could not get a copy. While I was telephoning John Ford Kosoff came along and told me he had heard the Panel was going to review its decision and said he would go down to the bar and let me know what they did. Thereafter he telephoned me in my room and told me they rendered a new decision in which they dropped the word "genuine" as previously stated. I telephoned this information to John Ford.

20. The Panel said copies of the decision would be available but I could not get one and on Saturday, February 17, 1968, at about 1:30 P.M. I asked Mr. Markin for a copy. Mr. Markin said "they are still recording it".

Then I went to Kosoff who went to Merkin and asked him for a written copy of the decision. Merkin said "I cannot give it to you until 5 P.M. tonight". Kosoff said "you are acting like children, are you still revising it" and Merkin said "no" which is exactly opposite to what Merkin had told me five minutes before when he had said "they were still recording it".

21. I said to Merkin "where is Carr?" and Merkin said "he is coming". I said he has pictures and other material that the Panel were given and were required to be returned to me to go back to New York. About ten or fifteen minutes later Bergen was with Merkin at Merkin's booth and I said to Merkin "have you seen the lab report that Carr was talking about?". Merkin said "no". I asked Bergen if he had seen it and Bergen also said "no". I said that is very strange as Carr stressed it during my meeting with the Panel.

22. I waited until about 9 P.M. to see Carr and when I saw Merkin I asked him where Carr was and he said "he is not coming back". I asked Merkin if he had spoken with him and he said "yes, I have spoken to him twice". I asked Merkin for Carr's telephone number and he said "it is unlisted and I do not know it".

23. Merkin said the lab test was an important item which Bergen used to base their decision on but I pointed out Bergen said he never had seen it and although it had been promised me I could not get it.

24. On Sunday, February 18, 1968, at breakfast, I asked Bergen if he had seen the lab test and he said he did not. I said I just wanted to recheck that statement to be sure.

25. On Saturday evening Harkin had said I could not get a copy of the decision because it had not yet been xeroxed and Harkin also said I could not see the lab test report because the decision had been made and the papers were locked up and they were through with the matter. Harkin also said they (the Panel) have much evidence of many prominent numismatists who hold these coins to be forgeries. Harkin said Carr could not have meant I could see the lab test or other pertinent and crucial information on which the Panel based its decision and they said they were not obligated to show me any evidence. I asked Harkin what was the reason for the reversed decision and he said the Panel had been advised by counsel only one ground claimed by Garland should be given which would entitle him to receive his money back from Ryan and therefore a ground holding the coin "was not a proof" was enough and Harkin said to me that Mann agreed with that position.

26. During Friday the Panel showed they did not know the criteria of a "proof". I had a long discussion with them from which this was clearly pointed out. Walter Breen is the author of the only book about proof coins and I am a recognized authority on mint processes. Breen writes all Harkin's catalogs for him.

27. Margo Russell and Krause told Koseoff who told me at the time of the revised decision they had agreed they would not give either the decision or the revision any publicity.

28. At the Panel hearing on Thursday, while I was present, Carr accused Ford of lying and he said Ford:

report said the coins were originally wrapped in handkerchiefs and he, Ford, had had one handkerchief which he said his nine year old daughter destroyed and therefore he was unable to exhibit it. Carr said "we have all kinds of tapes showing Ford's contradictions". I do not know whether he is talking about bugged telephone conversations or other claimed meetings with Ford where the conversations were wire recorded.

29. Kosoff said Carr had frequently told many people before the decision was rendered "the coins are fakes and counterfeits".

30. Carr admitted he had not even read Bacon's report.

31. I told the Panel during my meeting with them on Thursday I had talked to Eric Heman quite recently and explained to him why the items could not be made in the way he stated and Heman said "if they are not made that way then they are made some other way". I said to the Panel "you can check the accuracy of my report of my conversations with Heman and you probably will immediately by telephone".

32. I observed Mrs. Adams had sent Bergen or Carr or both of them copies of all the Ford correspondence with her and her replies.

33. The foregoing is the substance of an oral report I made on February 19, 1958 immediately after my return to New York and which I have today read and signed and it is true.

DON LAMAY

Sworn to before me this

20th day of February, 1958.

170
VERSION

#2

STATE OF NEW YORK)
 : ss.:
COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

Pg. #11
DON TAXAY STATE-
MENT MADE UPON
RETURN FROM "DECISION"
MADE BY RYAN - GAR-
LAND ARBITRATION
PANEL

DON TAXAY, being duly sworn, deposes and

says:

1. I live and maintain my office at 32-42 33rd Street, Astoria, New York, 11106; my telephone number is 274-1431.
2. I am the former Curator of the Chase Manhattan Bank Money Museum, and operate my business under the name of Numismatic Information Service at the aforesaid address. I am also the author of several books on numismatics, including the U.S. Mint and Coinage (Arco: 1966), which is the standard history reference work on the subject. Another of my books, Counterfeit, Mis-struck and Unofficial U.S. Coins (Arco: 1963) is devoted to the various methods of counterfeiting coins, and the means by which to detect them. In my capacity as an expert in counterfeit detection, I have, at various times, been consulted by the U.S. Secret Service.
3. I am familiar with the dispute between Ryan and Garland over the authenticity of a U.S. Assay Office twenty-dollar coin, which is or was the subject of arbitration, and have studied various similar and related coins from the same original hoard as the Ryan-Garland piece, and have come to the conclusion that this hoard is genuine.
4. The Arbitration Panel in the Ryan-Garland arbitration was scheduled to render its decision during the

proceedings of a numismatic convention held at the Statler-Hilton Hotel in Los Angeles, California, February 15-19, 1968, and at the expense of Harvey Stack and John Ford of New York, I attended this convention, arriving at the Statler-Hilton on February 14.

5. At about 6:30 P.M. on Thursday, February 15, 1968, in a room in the said Statler-Hilton Hotel, a so-called "inquiry" was held by the Panel relative to the subject matter of the arbitration and there were present at it Ronnie Carr, the Chairman, Herbert Bergen, and Lester Merkin. Also present were Walter Breen and myself, Mrs. Margo Russell, the Editor of Coin World, and Chester Krause, publisher of Numismatic News. These are the two largest publications in the coin field. Also present was Max Schwartz, a member of the New York Bar, who is executive director of the Professional Numismatists Guild, and some other, and to me unknown, young man.

6. A few minutes before the start of the meeting I met Carr in the Hotel lobby, and had a conversation with him in which I suggested, and he agreed, that it was in everyone's best interest that the Panel and I disclose all evidence and be perfectly candid with each other. Then we went up to the room for the hearing.

7. From the beginning, the questions put to me by Messrs. Carr and Bergen seemed irrelevant, and provocative. For example, when I said I did not consider myself to be representing either the Lilly estate, Stacks, or John Ford, and had agreed to speak before the panel only out of a general allegiance to truth, and because I felt a very

important numismatic find was being falsely condemned, Mr. Carr interrupted, asking whether Stacks hadn't paid my fare down, and then, without permitting me to answer, said that he knew they had so I shouldn't try to deny it. The inference was that I was about to lie, and that he had saved me from embarrassment by answering his own question before I could. I told him I had no intention of denying it, nor thought it in any way relevant, and that when I represented anyone I charged them \$100 a day. I added that I was not accepting a single cent and was sacrificing several days which I could be devoting to my own pressing work; and that if he wanted to infer from this that I was representing Stacks he was free to do so. He said something to the effect that that was his interpretation.

8. Shortly thereafter, Messrs. Carr and Bergen attacked me for having stated in my letter to Mr. Ford that a member of their panel had confided in me that he felt the hoard was genuine. I was asked to retract that statement, but refused on the grounds that it was true, which, indeed, it was. The two men continued to berate me, on the one hand "violating a confidence", and on the other for describing as a confidence something which was "common knowledge". They seemed not to find any incompatibility in the two charges. Mr. Carr called my statement the "most asinine" he had ever seen, and he and Mr. Bergen continued to harangue despite the protestations of Mr. Schwartz, the attorney they had invited to be present.

9. Mr. Bergen referred to a section of my letter to Mr. Ford where I refuted a supposedly factual statement

made by the Director of the U.S. Mint, Miss Eva Adams, with reference to nineteenth century mint refining methods. Mr. Bergen, in a very sarcastic tone, asked me whether I thought myself to be more of an expert than the U.S. Mint. I replied that it was not a question of being more of an expert or less of one, that the only relevant point was whether the statement made by Miss Adams, and from which she drew an implication unfavorable to the hoard coins, was true or false. I said it was demonstrably false and that it was a most elementary error. Then Mr. Bergen read the last paragraph of Mr. Ford's letter to Miss Adams, to the effect that he greatly valued her opinion with regard to the technical questions he was asking of the Mint. Mr. Bergen asked why Ford (unlike myself) showed such confidence in the opinion of the Mint. I pointed out that this was merely a matter of personal politeness to a public official. "Then, you mean Mr. Ford was being insincere," Mr. Bergen countered. I was flabbergasted at the persistence of his interpretation and could only say that few of us in this world are wholly sincere.

10. This sort of questioning, entirely personal and irrelevant to our purpose, continued for a long time. Then Mr. Carr, in a voice which conveyed a great sense of outrage, described how the finder of the hoard, of which the Ryan-Garland coin was a part, had lied with respect to his source. Mr. Bergen made additional remarks, and I gathered from these, and from the remarks of Mr. Carr, that these two gentlemen firmly believed that pedigree was the only crucial issue, that, in other words, if a pedigree was false, the object had also to be false. I said I thought

they placed too much emphasis on pedigree, and cited examples of coins with outstanding pedigrees which had proven false, and coins with false pedigrees, which were obviously genuine. It is not uncommon for a coin dealer to conceal the source of new material, especially if he feels there is more to come. It is simply a protective device in a very competitive field. So even the fact that Mr. Franklin, the discoverer of the hoard in question, felt compelled to fabricate a source does not strike me as sufficient cause to condemn his coins as counterfeits. I pointed out that since we had the coin on hand, and the obvious internal evidence on which to argue the merits of the case, it seemed purposeless to lose ourselves in a maze of speculations and false deductions.

11. Mr. Carr quoted Miss Adams as saying these coins could have been counterfeited profitably if they were marketed at \$150 or more (each). I replied that if Miss Adams' figures were correct, she could only have assumed that one particular type of coin was involved, of a single variety, and was fabricated by the cheapest and most primitive means of reproduction possible; that she hadn't the faintest idea of the processes or problems involved in the present case; that the hoard coins in question involved not one, but some fifteen pairs of dies, a number of hubs, various collars as well as several sets of letter punches, etc., etc. Later on, Mr. Carr resumed this tack. He said that we have only considered the relatively small amounts for which these hoard coins have been sold in the past, and that a counterfeiter might sell a number of coins at small amounts in the expectation of a long term profit. I

replied that he was overlooking a very obvious fact, that, since, according to the allegation that had been made, these coins were supposed to have been fabricated from false dies, made in turn from genuine coins, the counterfeiter would have to destroy each genuine coin he found in order to hide the evidence that a comparison of the genuine to the false would doubtless betray. Therefore, he would lose as much as he gained, more, in fact, since he would only retain counterfeits instead of the genuine coins he originally found. And is it conceivable that a man, on discovering the greatest hoard of U.S. material on record, would go to the enormous expense and infinite trouble of replacing his genuine coins with counterfeits?

12. I then took up the technical questions raised by Eric Newman and, one by one, showed how his charges had been refuted. I added that Newman had admitted to me that he was unsure of his original thesis, and that if the Panel wished to follow his technical argument they would have to do so without his support.

13. Mr. Carr asserted that he had had laboratory tests taken, and that they refuted those by the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, which indicate that certain of the hoard pieces contain experimental alloys. He asked what I had to say to this. I replied that I could not comment at all until I examined the test results he referred to, and I asked him to show them to me. He said he could not do so at that moment, but would show them to me later.

14. After that there was a discussion with Mr. Breen, and we adjourned. The following day, Friday, I was

told that the Panel's decision would be rendered at 1 P.M. I waited and waited, and when no decision was forthcoming, I finally went out to lunch. About 3:20 P.M., while I was still out to lunch, an announcement was made in the bourseroom that the decision of the Panel regarding the Ryan-Garland coin would be given in such-and-such room. It was a public announcement, and, apparently, everyone was invited. About ten minutes later, I am told, the decision was read, and it stated that the Ryan-Garland coin was "not a genuine proof U.S. Assay Office twenty-dollar gold coin." This information was conveyed to me by Mr. Abe Kosoff who was present. Mr. Kosoff says that a number of other persons, including the press, were also present, having responded to the public announcement. He says that as he found the wording of the decision ambiguous, he questioned Mr. Carr and Mr. Merkin about it. Mr. Bergen was not then present. Mr. Kosoff asked Mr. Merkin whether he thought the coin was not a proof, but was a genuine coin. Mr. Merkin said yes, and that they were unanimous in their belief that it was not a proof coin. Mr. Kosoff then asked Mr. Carr if he thought the coin was genuine. Mr. Carr, according to Mr. Kosoff, said he was not certain. Mr. Kosoff pressed him for a direct reply, and Mr. Carr is said to have finally asserted (unofficially) that he thought the coin was a fake. He also said that Mr. Bergen was of the same opinion.

15. Subsequently, in semi-private session, the Panel members decided to revise their decision, and did so by deleting the word "genuine" so that it now stated "not a proof U.S. Assay Office twenty-dollar gold coin." For this

information also, I am indebted to Mr. Kosoff. The fact is that at no time have I been able to obtain a written copy of the Panel's decision. On Saturday, February 17, 1968, at about 1:30 P.M. I asked Mr. Merkin for a copy. He replied that they were still rewording it. I then told this to Mr. Kosoff, who immediately went to Mr. Merkin and asked him for a written copy of the decision. Mr. Merkin said he could not give it to him until about 5 P.M. that evening. Mr. Kosoff told Mr. Merkin that they (the Panel) were acting like children. He asked him if they were still rewording the decision. Mr. Merkin replied no, that it would be identical to that of the previous day. This was directly contrary to what he had told me a few moments before.

16. I asked Mr. Merkin where Mr. Carr was, and reminded him that I expected to take back with me certain materials which had been lent to the Panel for study. Mr. Merkin said that Mr. Carr would bring everything with him. I told him that I also wanted to see the laboratory report Mr. Carr had referred to and had promised to show me. I asked Mr. Merkin whether he had seen this report, and he said he had not. Not long after this, I found Mr. Bergen sitting with Mr. Merkin, and I asked the former whether he, at least, had seen the report. Mr. Bergen replied that he had not seen it. I said that I found this very curious considering the importance attached to it by Mr. Carr at my meeting with the Panel.

17. I waited until about 9 P.M. to see Mr. Carr, and when I saw Mr. Merkin I asked where Mr. Carr was. Mr. Merkin replied that Mr. Carr would not be coming. I asked

Mr. Merkin whether he had spoken to him by phone, and he said that he had done so on two occasions. I again asked him for a copy of their decision and he said it had not yet been xeroxed. I then brought up the subject of the laboratory test. I said Mr. Carr had made such a point about it, and had promised to show it to me, but now was apparently not going to do so. Then Mr. Merkin said he had no recollection of Mr. Carr having promised to show it to me, and my attempts to remind him were of no avail. Besides, Mr. Merkin went on, the decision was in and the affair was closed. Everything was locked up, and no one would be allowed to see anything further. Mr. Merkin also said that they (the Panel) had much evidence, and some statements by "prominent numismatists" to the effect that the coins were not genuine. It amazed me that the Panel should withhold any purported evidence, especially as Mr. Carr had promised me at the outset that they would be candid. I told this to Mr. Merkin, and he said that the Panel was not obligated to disclose its evidence and that Mr. Carr could not have meant what I thought he had. I answered that in any case, Mr. Carr had wanted me to believe that he meant it. It seemed to me, since all the arguments against authenticity had been refuted, that the only reason for keeping the additional evidence a secret was to prevent its refutation.

18. In the course of my conversation with Mr. Merkin on Saturday evening he stated that I was incorrect in saying that Mr. Bergen had not seen the mysterious laboratory report. Mr. Merkin said that it had been one of the

deciding factors in both Mr. Carr's and Mr. Bergen's negative opinion. This amazed me since Mr. Bergen had told me in Mr. Merkin's presence that he had not seen the report. Fortunately, I met Mr. Bergen at breakfast on Sunday morning and confirmed that he had not seen it.

19. I asked Mr. Merkin why the Panel had altered its decision. He said that he had been advised by counsel that the only issue was whether Mr. Garland was entitled to receive his money back from Mr. Ryan, and therefore it was necessary to establish only one reason. They had done so by finding that the coin was not a proof. Mr. Merkin said that they had been advised that they would have exceeded their responsibility by saying more. He added that Mr. Finn was also of this opinion. It occurred to me that unless a coin was genuine, the question of whether or not it was a proof would not arise, and therefore, by implication, the Panel had officially found the Ryan-Garland coin to be genuine, despite Mr. Carr's alleged public statement to the contrary. I did not, however, say this to Mr. Merkin.

20. I think it is also relevant to state that during my meeting with the Panel, its members showed an amazing ignorance of what a proof coin actually is, even though this is elementary numismatics. (A proof is a coin struck more than once to produce bold relief, using polished dies and specially prepared, usually polished planchets. They are normally struck at the Philadelphia Mint.) Mr. Carr, for example, thought that the term "proof" designated a "condition", that is a state of preservation. Mr. Breen

and I had to explain that it was a method of manufacture and not a condition. Mr. Bergen thought that proof coins were only struck at the Philadelphia Mint. By definition, the Ryan-Garland coin would then be a non-proof! Mr. Breen, in reply, cited a number of examples of branch mint proofs. Of course, the truth is that proof coins are struck at mints throughout the world. They are hardly a U.S. monopoly, much less that of the Philadelphia Mint. Mr. Breen and I also discussed the variability of the proofing process at different periods in the history of the Philadelphia Mint. On Saturday evening, when I was talking to Mr. Merkin, I asked him frankly why he had called the Ryan-Garland coin a non-proof. It struck me as particularly odd in his case as he employs Walter Breen to write his auction catalogues, and trusts his attributions well enough for that purpose. Moreover, Mr. Breen is the author of the only book devoted entirely to proof coinage. Mr. Merkin replied by saying that the Ryan-Garland coin did not compare favorably with the Kosoff proof specimens. I said to him, "But Lester, the Kosoff piece is a Philadelphia Mint restrrike." This fact had not only been stated in reports submitted to the Panel, but was alluded to during my meeting with it. Mr. Merkin just smiled, and replied "What kind of restrikes do you think these coins (the Franklin hoard pieces) are?" I suppose he intended this as a joke, but it seemed to me to be one more indication of the absolute incompetence of the Panel. I also ascertained from Messrs. Bergen and Merkin, that between the time of my meeting with the Panel, when they showed so much confusion as to what constituted a proof

coin, and the time of their decision when they stated the Ryan-Garland coin was a non-proof, they had not even seen said coin and so could hardly have put to practical use their new knowledge.

21. In my opinion, the Panel has failed utterly to perform the duty it accepted with regard to the Ryan-Garland dispute, and has conducted itself with a most amazing disregard for arbitration procedures. Moreover, the members have shown again and again that they have neither understood nor tried to understand the evidence before them, and, indeed, Mr. Carr, during the course of my meeting with the Panel, admitted and tried to dismiss as a joke the fact that he had not even read the refutation presented by Walter Breen of Eric Newman's arguments. Such being the case, I would consider any decision reached by the Panel, whether for or against the Franklin Hoard coins, to be of no value whatever.

DON TAXAY

Sworn to before me this
day of February, 1968.

Notary Public

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UNDER DIRECTION OF DON TAXAY
Former Curator Chase Manhattan Bank
Money Museum

Jan. 30, 1968

Mr. John J. Ford Jr.
176 Hendrickson Ave.
Rockville Centre, N.Y.

Dear John:

As requested by you, I have studied the various exhibits relating to the controversial U.S. Assay Office hoard. These include reports by Walter Breen and yourself, photos of the various hoard pieces (many of which were already familiar to me through my researches in the A.M.S. negative file), a Moffat & Co. die, a large cent overstacked on the reverse by the above die and on the obverse by an Assay Office obverse die for a double eagle, and two double eagle coins in the possession of Harry Forman, which are from the same group as the Garland coin and, for study purpose, comparable to it. I have also examined in superimposition, enlarged transparencies of two Assay Office double eagles, one a Franklin hoard piece, the other a coin of unquestioned character. I should state at the outset that my conclusions have been drawn from numismatic evidence alone, and not from any collateral argument such as that of pedigree. For genuine coins as well as counterfeits have been known to give rise to tall tales. For example, the recently publicized Brasher doubloon is neither a doubloon nor, as alleged, traceable to George Washington, but we do not on that account condemn it. Similarly, if you had asked my opinion of the pedigrees supplied by Paul Franklin with respect to the Assay Office hoard, I would have expressed my skepticism. But, as I understand it, this is not the subject before the arbitration panel, which has rather been formed for the purpose of authenticating the hoard coin now owned by Paul Garland.

On the basis of my own examination of the subject, supplemented by Walter Breen's die study and the affidavits of Prof. Woodbury and other qualified experts, I would not hesitate to pronounce the hoard genuine.

The allegation that these coins have been struck from counterfeit dies, made in turn from genuine coins is demonstrably

false. The lack of perceptible shrinkage, or of any loss of detail in such a highly complex design as the engine-turned reverse, prove, beyond possible refutation, that such was not the case. I have heard it alleged that counterfeiters, using the methods of dentistry, can compensate for shrinkage, but this must be true only with regard to overall circumference. A false coin in which this compensation had been obtained would show a wide rim, but a comparative diminution of all its details, the diminution becoming more marked as it moved away from the center.

Again, if counterfeit dies had been made by some impact reproduction process, using a genuine coin as a hub, there would also be much loss of detail, or, in lieu, evidence of hand finishing.

Of course, there may be other superior reproduction techniques of which we are not fully aware. For example, I understand that dies made by the electroforming technique have been successfully employed by a New York company to strike soft-metal "replicas" of ancient coins. And if we want to become theoretical, that is fanciful, we can doubtless conjure up still more sophisticated techniques. Yet, in the case of the Assay Office hoard, our common sense would dictate that we dismiss all idea of transfer processes because of the large number of different die strikes we are dealing with, and the lack, in every instance, of a known prototype. Let us ask a very preliminary question. If all of these coins were made from false dies, made in turn from genuine coins, then where O where are the genuine coins? Did someone find a cache of unique coins, and then, assuming he were able to do so (which when his necessary inventory is analyzed becomes inconceivable) go to the fantastic expense of making false dies from each? And if he did, then I should like to know why. For if he succeeded in making a unique or semi-unique counterfeit from each pair of dies, he would ever afterwards be forced to hide his genuine coins to conceal the evidence that a comparison of the real to the false would doubtless betray. This could only be the pastime of a very prosperous madman, and of one also who had at his disposal ways and means utterly beyond our present knowledge and, indeed, conception. Yet it is the hypothesis we must accept if we wish to condemn the hoard or any part of it. And it cannot be overemphasized, as Walter Breen has demonstrated in his excellent analysis of matrix progression, that any conclusion of genuineness or falsity must be applied to the entire hoard. There can be no separate conclusion with regard to this or that coin.

As I understand it, the contention that false dies had been used to make the Assay Office double eagles was based primarily on two technical points, first the existence of certain common flaws in different working dies, and, secondly, the peculiar

character of the reeding. As to the first point, it may be answered that since complete hubs were used by the Assay Office, there is no reason to think that such flaws could not originate in a genuine hub or master die. Minor examples of this phenomenon can be cited among the regular issue U.S. coins, and we should not wonder that the Assay Office, with its limited facilities, would be willing to use a hub or master die even with an advanced flaw. More specifically, the existence of the same "lent" on a Mint collection coin as on the Assay Office double eagles (where, interestingly, it was given as evidence of falsity) should suffice to annihilate this line of argument. Again, the peculiarity of the collar used for the hoard double eagles does not prove anything since widely divergent collars were sometimes used even on the same issue of U.S. mint coins (e.g. the 1837 half dollar.) And if, as everything could indicate, the Assay Office coins in question are of an experimental nature, the peculiarity of the collar seems still less "peculiar."

To my knowledge, no charge of restriking has been preferred against the Assay Office hoard. Nor does it seem to me that any such charge could be reasonably made unless one could produce either the requisite dies and punches, or original impressions which, by their very fabric, reveal an earlier period of manufacture. Any allegation of restriking unaccompanied by such exhibits would be baseless and would not merit refutation. This notwithstanding, it is desirable that we marshal such evidence against the possibility of restriking as is readily available to us. First, the condition of the dies which struck the various hoard pieces was not what one would expect after a period of more than a century. Of course, the dies might have been greased, but if so then why was the one matrix which did turn up in the hoard so incredibly rusted that it could only be identified after the most drastic cleaning? More important, the large cent which has been overstruck on the reverse by the same die shows no evidence of die rust, but does show what appears to both Walter Breen and myself to be a genuine patination which could only have been acquired after a good many years. Thirdly, the maker of the hoard coins must have had in his possession not only an enormous number of dies, but also various of Albert Kuner's punches, which are known to have been destroyed by fire in 1911.

I note, somewhat unhappily, that you have brought the matter of the Assay Office double eagles to the attention of the Mint Bureau. It strikes me, especially after reading the comments of the Director of that Bureau, that the Mint is altogether unqualified to arbitrate issues involving 19th century technology. For example, in Miss Adams' letter to you of 7/27/67, she states that "it was not until just prior to the passage of the Act of 1873, that other refining methods (i.e. other than cupellation -- D.T.) employing acid processes, provided for the separation and purification of gold and silver." This is absolutely incorrect. Nitric acid refining was practiced in the Mint from its earliest days. During the period of the first Mint, copper was used to form copper nitrate in order to release the silver from solution. Then, when Franklin Peale returned from Europe in 1835, the Mint adopted the more advanced technique that was being used by P.M. Johnson's refinery in London. This obviated the need for furnace refining, and permitted the recovery of the parted silver by means of common salt. The silver nitrate was subjected to a strong solution of sodium chloride, which produced silver chloride and nitrate of soda. Finally, the silver chloride was treated with granulated zinc, producing zinc chloride and pure metallic silver. But surely I need not tell you all this, especially as I have documented it in great detail in my U.S. Mint and Coinage.

We now come to the second, very gross error in the Director's thinking, this with regard to the experimental alloys used in the hoard double eagles. The significance of these alloys has been very much misunderstood. Miss Adams, referring to the three coins which have been analyzed at finenesses of .860, .890 and .910, states: "since the three alloys would be indistinguishable in their manufacturing and coining properties, it is not likely that any mint would have considered making them as 'experimental alloys.'" Then, in order to justify her statement, she goes on to suggest that the laboratory rounded off the figures to the nearest hundredth, giving a false appearance of exactitude.

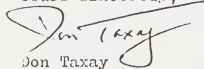
I understand from you that the laboratory has confirmed the fact that its results were calculated to the thousandth and not to the hundredth as Miss Adams suggests. This very important point now clarified, we can proceed to the first of the Director's contentions, that "since the three alloys would be indistinguishable in their manufacturing and coining properties, it is not likely that any mint would have considered making them as 'experimental alloys.'" Miss Adams is not only confusing our present metallurgical knowledge with that of an earlier period, but is completely unaware of the historical circumstances and determining factors of the latter. She might be informed, for example, that in 1835 the Philadelphia Mint struck six different quarter eagles in experimental alloys of so slight a difference that only various numbers of pin-point pricks impressed into each could differentiate them.

What are the criteria by which an alloy is selected? Appearance is one. Another is how well it resists the effects of attrition. Still another, and one that was especially important during the 19th century, is how well it receives an impression. These are general considerations, but to their ranks we must be prepared to admit others also if circumstances warrant. The U.S. Assay Office is a case in point. During 1851 and 1852 we find the contractors, Moffat & Co., regularly striking coins of .880, .884 and .887 fineness. And here we are dealing not with experiments, but with mint practice! The reasons, of course, are to be found in Moffat and Co.'s cost controls and the comparative availability of refining acids which were habitually in short supply. And this brings us back to your experimental double eagles, and the reason why, in my opinion, they were struck.

It is well known that in September 1852, Acting Secretary of the Treasury Holge instructed the Collector of Customs at San Francisco that Congress had prohibited him from receiving the issues of the U.S. Assay Office. In point of fact, Congress had done no such thing, but only insisted that all payments of public dues be made with standard (i.e. .900 fine) coins. At the time, the Assay Office had been striking coins of a fineness as high as .887, but in the eyes of the Treasury Department (at least of that day!) a disparity of 13/1000ths was sufficient cause to demonitize the issue. Of course, when pushed to the wall, the Assay Office did indeed come up with .900 fine coins since these were required by the merchants who depended so greatly on imports. But if the Customs House demanded .900 fine coins, the public at large did not. They were content if their coins contained full face value. Therefore, the Assay Office, which was neither bound by law to issue .900 fine coins, nor prohibited by contract from striking coins under their private name, prepared to do both. As you know, there are in the Connecticut State Library, U.S. Assay Office die impressions of an eagle and half eagle of 1853, complete in every way save for the fineness which was still undecided. Moreover, the 1853 Moffat & Co. double eagle, and the existence of a die impression of the same year for a Moffat & Co. half eagle, show that the contractors finally adopted as the best solution to the problem. They would issue on demand the .900 fine Assay Office coins required for public dues, and, for the rest, coins of a lesser fineness which bore their own imprint. This was both profitable and practicable, and, as I have said, completely within their legal rights. In this connection we should recall also that while John L. Moffat had left the firm in February 1852, Curtis, Peary & Ward retained the right to use the Moffat name. This they did with considerable foresight, and doubtless because even then they contemplated the resumption of coinage under their own name.

And so, as you will no doubt agree, it all hangs together, including the experimental alloys and all the other delightfully strange artifacts in the hoard. I cannot imagine how any one with numismatic knowledge and all of your evidence at his disposal can possibly form an opinion unfavorable to the coins. The case for their genuineness is overwhelming and irrefutable. And you may be interested in knowing that one member of the arbitration panel has already confided to me his faith in their genuineness. I do not know what more I can add except, perhaps, a word of praise for the very thorough manner in which you and Walter Breen have prepared the case for the defence.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Taxay", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Don Taxay

P.S. I have passed over a number of minor matters such as the helical lines, as they have been more than adequately dealt with in your report.



THE

Stutter Hillen

LOS ANGELES

COMPLETELY AIR CONDITIONED

910 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, Calif. 90017

Feb. 16, 1968

Mr. John J. Ford Jr.
176 Hendrickson Ave.
Rockville Centre, N.Y.

Dear John:

With regard to the "decision" reached by Messrs. Carr, Bergen, and Merkin, that the Ryan-Garland specimen of the 1853 Assay Office double eagle is not a proof coin, we should like to state:

1) That during the inquiry on Feb. 15, the Carr-Bergen-Merkin panel asked us to explain the criteria by which a genuine proof coin can be determined;

2) That, in response, we explained said criteria, and the methods of manufacture involved in producing same, and also dispelled the erroneous notion expressed by Mr. Carr that "proof" was a condition as is "uncirculated";

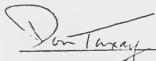
3) That we further explained that exceptional proofs exist which are devoid of one or more of the usual characteristics;

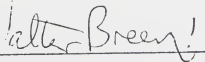
4) That we stated as the one unequivocal criterion the fact that proof coins receive multiple impressions from the dies, and that these impressions, being microscopically misaligned, can be detected under powerful magnification;

5) That, notwithstanding the obvious confusion of the panel as to what constitutes a genuine proof, and the fact that between the time of the inquiry and that of their decision they did not even see the Ryan-Garland coin, they saw fit to adjudge it to be a non-proof.

This is the final joke in the comedy of errors that have characterized this whole proceeding. We find, incidentally, that at least one member of the panel, Mr. Carr, has by his own admission, not even read the report prepared by Walter Breen on the Franklin board of Assay Office coins. And Carr is the chairman of the panel!

All of which is submitted for your interest by


Don Taxay


Walter Breen

#8

HC

March 5th, 1963

Don Brown
1532 Broadway
Denver, Colorado

Dear Don:

I wish to make a final report with regard to the F.N.G. Arbitration Committee, which was appointed to handle the so-called Garland/Ryan problem.

I have just met with Ronnie Carr in my office, and he advised me that he has already sent a copy of the Arbitration Decision to you and to John Ford. I requested that he send a copy to Dave Shapiro and Max Schwartz. This he agreed to do.

Although Mr. Carr stated that neither he nor the panel wished to put any other information in writing ^{that} which is covered by the aforementioned report, he did have other information that he would and could give orally.

Apparently one result of the panel's investigation was continued disagreement and continued confusion with regard to the genuineness of the Garland/Ryan coin. As far as I could ascertain, from my verbal discussion with Mr. Carr, the panel had no concrete evidence that the coin was genuine and on the other hand, they had no concrete evidence that the coin was false. They feel that considerable more investigation and expensive tests must be done. He did imply to me that this additional effort would very probably be carried forth by one of our Government Agencies.

The panel, of course, was unanimous that the Garland/Ryan coin is not a Proof coin.

Mr. Carr did return to me the subject coin purchased by Mr. Garland, which had been supplied to the panel to aid in their investigation.

I am sending this coin to Mr. Paul Garland by registered - air mail.

Mr. Carr feels the panel had gone as far as it can go in this matter and now considers the panel closed or disbanded.

Sincerely,

LEO A. YOUNG - NUMISMATIST

cc: Dave Shapiro

#9

HIC

March 8th, 1968

TO - THE GARLAND-RYAN ASSASSINATION PANEL - 1015 CALIF
NEW DENVER
CIVIL RIGHTS

Dear Panel Members:

Your Chairman, Ronnie Carr, came into my office recently to return sundry items I had supplied him with regarding this controversy, as well as to present me with a signed copy of your decision on this problem.

To say I was disappointed, is to put it too mildly.

I received and heard many professionally competent comments regarding the quality, integrity and forthrightness of your chairman. I felt we had men of such calibre that they could not be intimidated, bluffed, coerced, or backed into a corner.

However, I was wrong.

After all the work, time, concern and humanity's national interest involved by this problem, and then for you to come now to render an opinion that the coin was "NOT PROOF" and nothing else is, to me, almost unbelievable.

You well know that was never the problem to be considered. All of John Ford's early correspondence refers to this coin as proof-like.

Garland made the flat charge that the coin was false; a phony; a counterfeit.

Now, if you believe the coin "genuine" why did you not say so?

Or, if you believed it "false," why did you not say so?

With your work report, of only saying the coin was "not a Proof," you in reality are evading the issue; why? Just so you can't know? Then say so. Because you were scared? Then say so.

The \$600.00 you spent for tests. Were they inconclusive? Did the coin pass or fail the tests? Say so. When I saw your Chairman Carr's request for these tests, he assured me they would be conclusive. If the coin passed, it was genuine. If it failed, it was false. Say so.

How dare you spend \$600.00 on these tests and then today, ignore the tests?

The Garland-Ryan Arbitration Panel
Page #/2
March 8th, 1963

Not mention them and usually pretend you didn't have the tests made, at least as far as any report to me is concerned.

Ronnie Carr admitted to me that at no time was any request made of me, not fulfilled. I did, at his request, at various times; money, other coins, letters of apology, made all my Pickens Collection available to him, got him the cooperation of many who had been unco-operative, and, again, I did fill to his satisfaction every request he made of me for assistance, of any and all kinds. Ronnie ASHITS into.

However, gentlemen, your work on the panel is done. I wish I did not have to criticize your job. I do want to thank you for your time spent.

However, one final thing is in order.

Based on your "report" as my guide, I think you owe John Ford a warm letter for his patience, perseverance, and the terrible maligning he suffered by innuendo. Apparently, he came through this ordeal with his position intact.

Sincerely,

LEO A. YOUNG

LAY-jc

JOHN J. FORD, JR.

Nemismatist

176 HENDRICKSON AVE.
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, L.I.N.Y.

August 7, 1969

Mr. Henry H. Clifford
639 So. Spring St.
Los Angeles, Cal. 90014

Dear Hank:

Enclosed you will find the following items relative to the recent questioning of the hoard of USAOG material discovered in 1957-58:

1. Copy of "An Inquiry into the Authenticity of a Hoard of \$20 United States Assay Office Gold Pieces." Eric P. Newman, August, 1966. This is the "report" that triggered the Ryan-Garland arbitration, and is the erroneous and falacious collection of allegations that I refuted in my answer.
2. Copy of "Report on Proof Bar." Eric P. Newman, March, 1967. This is Newman's analysis of ~~22~~ USAOG "Proofing" ingot. This was done by Newman ostensibly for Leo A. Young. The technical information in it is exposed as falacious by my report, but there also exists a specific reply by Walter H. Breen to this particular Newman "~~report~~."
3. These ~~are~~ ^{are} copies of various letters pertaining to Paul E. Garland's attempts to have the Congress of the United States turn down acquisition of the Lilly Collection. All this ended up with a public hearing scheduled by the House Judiciary Sub-Committee for February 7, 1968. Abe Kosoff, Harvey Stack, Dr. Stefanelli, myself and others agreed to attend, but Eric P. Newman got "cold feet." Since Mr. Garland's expert was not available, the hearing was cancelled and as you know the Lilly acquisition was finally made without further hindrance.
4. Copy of Don Taxay's report on the USAOG hoard. Dated January 30, 1968.
5. Copy of letter to me, signed by Taxay and Breen, concerning knowledge of what constitutes a "Proof" by the Carr-Bergen-Merkin Panel. Dated February 16, 1968.
6. Copy of the ~~first~~ ^{one} version of Don Taxay's statement made upon his return from California following the "decision" given by the Ryan-Garland Arbitration Panel. Dated February 20, 1968.

JOHN J. FORD, JR.

7. Copy of ~~another~~ ^{ANOTHER} version of Don Taxay's statement as above. Dated February 1968.
8. Letter from Leo A. Young to Dan Brown. Dated March 5, 1968.
9. Letter from Leo Young to the Ryan-Garland Arbitration Panel. Dated March 8, 1968.

This material should be of some interest to you. I have talked to my lawyer, and he agreed to make up another copy of my report. This will be sent you when available, and at that time you can return Charles' copy to him.

If you have any questions, or would like any further information, do not hesitate to call upon me. I have a filing cabinet full of items and can send you copies of anything you might want.

Very best personal regards.

Sincerely,


John J. Ford, Jr.

JJF:dn

Encl.